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RATCHEV, Ivan [AU/AU]; 2 Young Street, Georgetown,
New South Wales 2298 (AU).

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(74) Agent: **GRIFFITH HACK**; 509 St Kilda Road, Mel-
bourne, Victoria 3004 (AU).

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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **BHP BIL-
LITON INNOVATION PTY LTD** [AU/AU]; BHP Billi-
ton Centre, 180 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000
(AU).

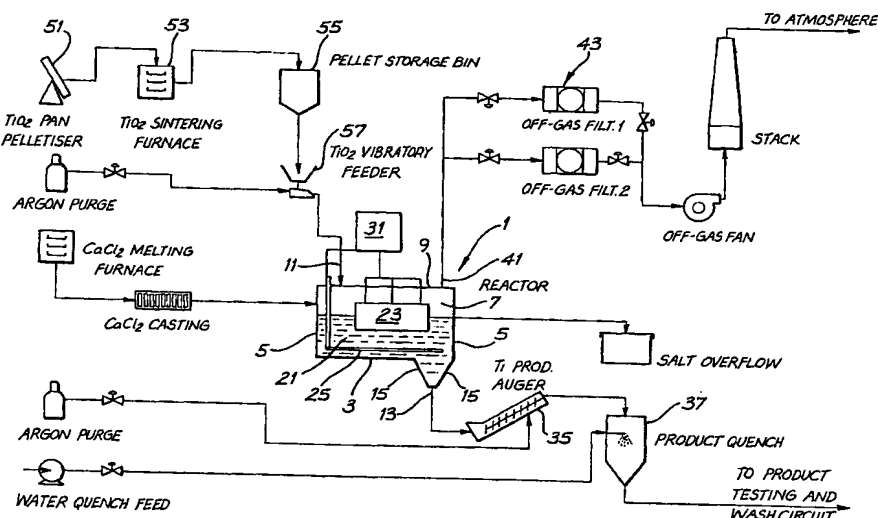
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(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **SHOOK, Andrew**,
Arthur [AU/AU]; 4 Orlando Close, Eleebana, New South
Wales 2282 (AU). **RIGBY, Gregory, David** [AU/AU]; 107
Tiriki Street, Charles Town, New South Wales 2290 (AU).

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(54) Title: **ELECTROCHEMICAL REDUCTION OF METAL OXIDES**



(57) Abstract: An electrolytic cell for electrochemically reducing metal oxide powders and/or pellets is disclosed. The cell includes a cathode (25) in the form of a plate that has an upper surface for supporting metal oxide powders and/or pellets. The plate is horizontally disposed or slightly inclined and has a forward end and a rearward end and is immersed in an electrolyte bath. The plate is supported for movement so as to cause metal oxide powders and/or pellets on the upper surface of the plate to move toward a forward end of the plate. The cell also includes a means for causing metal oxide powders and/or pellets to move over the upper surface of the plate toward the forward end of the cathode while in contact with molten electrolyte whereby electrochemical reduction of the metal oxide to metal can occur. A method of continuously or semi-continuously reducing metal oxide powders and/or pellets in the cell is also disclosed.



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